

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 CEQ-01

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DRAFTED BY IO/CMD:LEKAHN:JPS

APPROVED BY IO:DR. MOREY

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IO/CMD:PDWYMAN

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R 130207Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UN, OVIP

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE, VISIT OF SECRETARY GENERAL TO
WASHINGTON

USUN FOR SEIFMAN

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOREY (IO) MET WITH YAHIA
ABDEL MAGEED, NEWLY-APPOINTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN
WATER CONFERENCE, JULY 9 TO DISCUSS VIEWS AND OBJECTIVES

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CONCERNING WATER CONFERENCE. OCCASION WAS MAGEED'S FIRST

VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. MOREY STRESSED SERIOUSNESS OF U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE OUTLINED IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH TO UNCTAD IV CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI. HE ASKED MAGEED AND HIS STAFF TO USE SEIFMAN OF U.S. MISSION STAFF IN NEW YORK AS CONTACT POINT FOR ALL REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES ADDRESSED TO U.S. GOVERNMENT. HE REMINDED MAGEED OF U.S. POSITION EXPRESSED DURING HABITAT CONFERENCE ON KEEPING CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL ISSUES OUT OF FUTURE CONFERENCES DEVOTED TO OTHER SUBJECTS AND EXPRESSED "STRONG INTEREST" OF USG IN KEEPING SUCH EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES OUT OF WATER CONFERENCE. HE MENTIONED IMPACT OF WATER DEVELOPMENT ON HEALTH AS ONE AREA HE HOPED CONFERENCE WOULD NOT IGNORE AND POINTED OUT USEFUL ROLE NGOS COULD PLAY IN CONFERENCE.

3. MAGEED, SAYING HE WAS "SATISFIED" THUS FAR WITH PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE, NOTED THAT VERY SMALL BUDGET WAS "CRITICAL" PROBLEM. HE SAW CONFERENCE AS CONCENTRATING ON POLICY ISSUES, DEALING WITH "MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE", AND PICKING UP THEMES DEVELOPED BY EARLIER CONFERENCES SUCH AS HABITAT. IN THIS WAY (WITH THE CONFERENCE "FLOODED BY REAL ISSUES") HE HOPES TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD "INDULGE" IN POLITICAL ISSUES.

4. IN MEETING WITH MOREY, AS IN EARLIER MEETING WITH PREPARATORY TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED BY THE WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL, MAGEED MADE POSITIVE IMPRESSION AS EARNEST, LOW-KEY, PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHLY-COMPETENT SPOKESMAN FOR UN WATER CONFERENCE. KISSINGER

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